

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIGS. 5 & 6. This sheet, which includes FIGS. 5 & 6, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 5 & 6. In each of FIGS. 5 & 6, the reference number "220" has been repeated in additional places to more clearly indicate the extent of the "ground shield 220" in each figure.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 remain in the application. Of these, claims 1-3, 5, 8, 12, 13 and 17 stand rejected, and claims 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 14-16 and 18-20 stand objected to.

1. Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objects to paragraph [0015] of the specification because he believes the phrase "is shielded 106, 108" is an incomplete recitation. Applicants disagree, but have amended paragraph [0015] to advance prosecution. Applicants believe their amended paragraph [0015] provides the same disclosure as their original paragraph [0015], and does not introduce new matter.

The Examiner objects to paragraphs [0022] and [0024] because he believes phrases such as "deposited 402" should be rewritten as "deposited by step 402". Applicants disagree, but have amended paragraphs [0022] and [0024] to advance prosecution. Applicants believe their amended paragraphs [0022] and [0024] provide the same disclosure as their original paragraphs [0022] and [0024], and do not introduce new matter.

The Examiner further objects to the disclosure because, "the following reference labels need description relative to the corresponding drawing figure: figs. 5, 6 (200, 204, 224); Fig. 6 (202, 218, 220); figs. 8, 9 (218, 224); fig. 9 (200, 202, 204, 800, 802, 810, 812, 904, 906)." To resolve this issue, the Examiner suggests the inclusion of an explanatory sentence indicating that like reference numbers in different drawing figures refer to like elements/features. In response, applicants have added paragraph [0014.1]. The recitations in this added paragraph are not substantive, and it is believed that this paragraph does not introduce new matter.

2. Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objects to FIGS. 5 & 6 of the drawings because reference number "220" does not appear on the right-hand sides of the ground shields 220. Applicants have amended the drawings to include these additional references to ground shields 220. Applicants do not believe their amendments add new matter.

3. Rejection of Claims 1-3 Under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by either Leeb (U.S. Pat. No. 5,317,292) or Matsubayashi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,426,399; hereinafter "Matsubayashi").

The Examiner asserts that:

... each reference discloses first and second dielectric mounds (1, 5 in Leeb; 10a, 10c in Matsubayashi et al) encapsulating first and second signal conductors (2 in Leeb; 3 in Matsubayashi et al). A third dielectric mound (1, 5 in Fig. 10 of Leeb; 10b in Matsubayashi et al) which encapsulates a signal conductor (3 in Matsubayashi et al; 2 in fig. 10, of Leeb) and which is disposed in a valley adjacent to the first and second dielectric mounds.

11/1/2005 Final Office Action, p. 3.

Even assuming, *arguendo*, that the Examiner has correctly summarized Leeb's and Matsubayashi's teachings, the Examiner has not indicated where Leeb or Matsubayashi teach "a third dielectric, **filling** a valley between the first and second mounds of dielectric, and encapsulating a third conductor". A third dielectric mound "**disposed in** a valley adjacent" first and second dielectric mounds is not equivalent to a third dielectric mound "**filling** a valley between" first and second dielectric mounds. The latter, which is claimed by applicants, provides for a denser array of quasi-coax transmission lines than does Leeb or Matsubayashi. Furthermore, if Leeb and Matsubayashi form all of their dielectric mounds in parallel (which it appears is the case), then it is questionable whether Leeb or Matsubayashi really disclose

forming a third dielectric mound in "a valley between" first and second mounds of dielectric, as such a valley is never really created.

Claims 1-3 are believed to be allowable over the teachings of Leeb and Matsubayashi for at least the above reasons.

4. Rejection of Claims 8, 12, 13 and 17 under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 8, 12, 13 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Leeb (U.S. Pat. No. 5,317,292).

Applicants assert that claims 8, 12, 13 and 17 are allowable at least for reasons similar to why claim 1 is believed to be allowable. Furthermore, Leeb does not appear to disclose (and the Examiner does not indicate where Leeb discloses) the particular construction methods recited in claims 8 and 13.

In responding to applicants' above argument, the Examiner asserts in his 11/1/2005 Final Office Action that applicants' generic steps of "depositing, etc." are met by Leeb's laminating steps. Applicants strongly disagree. Applicants' claims not only recite certain steps, but also imply an order in which the steps need to be performed.

For example, in claim 8, a "third lower dielectric" is deposited "in a valley between the first and second upper and lower mounds of dielectric". The third lower dielectric cannot be deposited "in a valley" if the valley is not first created. Claim 8 therefore requires 1) first depositing at least the first and second lower mounds of dielectric to create "a valley" between them, and then 2) depositing the third lower dielectric "in the valley". In contrast to this process, Leeb discloses a method wherein a plurality of conductors are all formed in parallel (i.e., at the same time).

In claim 13, ground shields are deposited on mounds of dielectric in two parts - i.e., as "ground shield walls" and "ground shield caps". Again, Leeb is entirely silent regarding this order of steps.

Claims 8, 12, 13 and 17 are therefore believed to be allowable for the reasons presented in Section 3 of these Remarks/Arguments, *supra*.

5. Rejection of Claim 5 under 35 USC 103(a)

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leeb (U.S. Pat. No. 5,317,292) or Matsubayashi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,426,399; hereinafter "Matsubayashi") in view of Dove et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,457,979; hereinafter "Dove").


Applicants assert that Dove does not teach that which applicants have already argued is missing from both Leeb and Matsubayashi. As a result, applicants believe that claim 5 is allowable at least for the reason that it depends from claim 1, which claim is believed to be allowable over the teachings of Leeb and Matsubayashi for the reasons presented in Section 3 of these Remarks/Arguments, *supra*.

6. Conclusion

In light of the amendments and remarks provided herein, applicants respectfully request the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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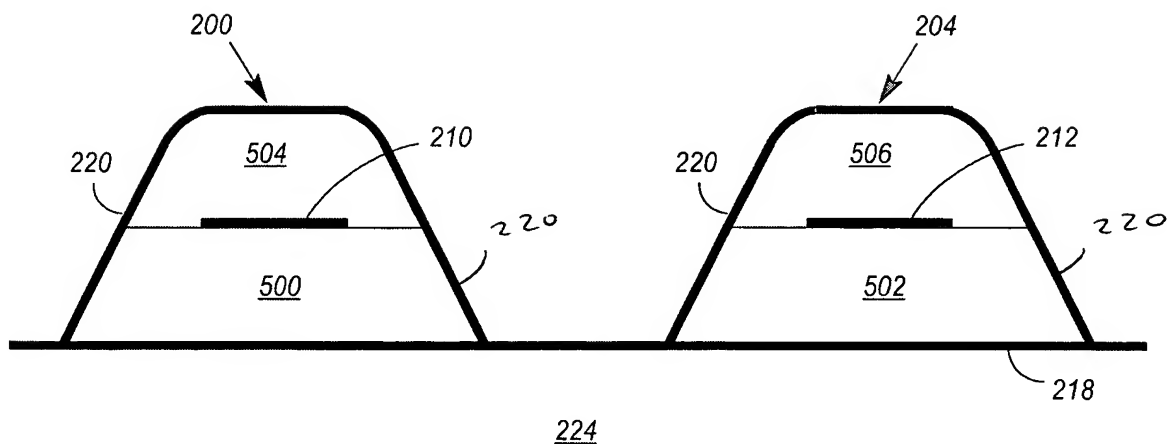


FIG. 5

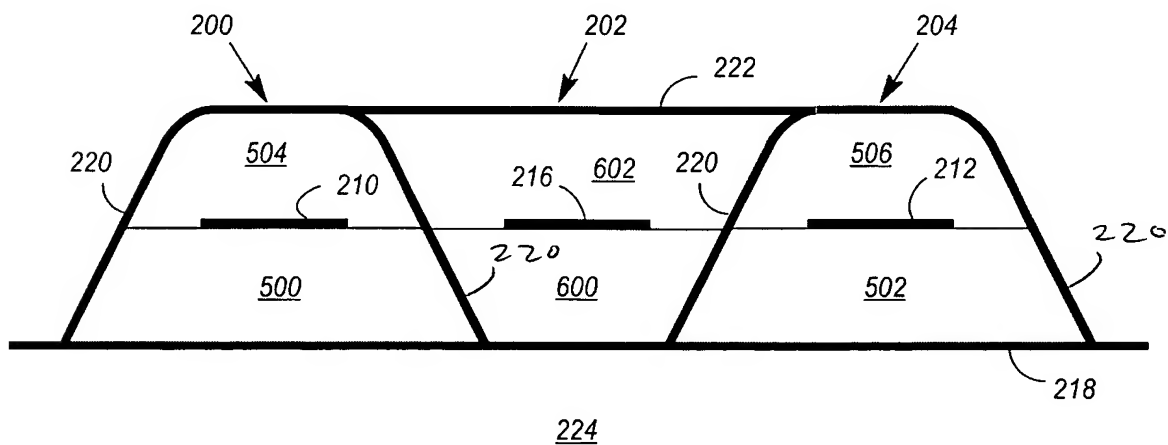


FIG. 6